

CONSUMER PROTECTION



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News

February 2002 Edition

Dear Wisconsin Children's Safety Advocates:

In January, 2002, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued **three (3) recalls and one (1) safety advisory relating to products affecting children.** Attached is a summary of the releases identifying the product, problem and what should be done with the recalled product.

We have found that not all of the recalls are picked up by the news media as they occur. This monthly summary will give you the opportunity to review all of the children's product safety recalls for the past month.

If you are interested in a complete text of the recall, double click on the hyperlink at the end of the recall description. This will take you to the CPSC website and the actual recall notice. If you have other product safety questions you may call our toll free number at **(800) 422-7128 and then press "zero" (0) to speak with Product Safety.** You should leave your name, your organization's name and a phone number.

Following is a listing of the 3 "KIDS" recalls and 1 Safety Advisory by title and identification number:

- ❖ Kent International, Inc. is recalling "Midget Racer" Mini-Bicycles. #02-081
- ❖ Intermatic, Inc. is recalling Nightlights. #02-084
- ❖ Value City & Schottenstein Stores are recalling Children's Gel Candle Kits. #02-089
- ❖ CPSC offers Safety Tips to Prevent Home Fires Caused by Space Heaters. #02-083

We hope you find this service of value and that it assists you to:

"KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE!"

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

Recall Number: 02-081 Kent International Inc. of Parsippany, N.J., is voluntarily recalling about 28,000 "Midget Racer" mini-bicycles. The "Midget Racer" mini-bicycle is yellow with 8-inch black rubber tires, black seat and black hand-grips. The mini-bicycle is about 31- inches long and 23-inches high. "MIDGET RACER" and "KENT" are written in red lettering on the frame of the bicycle. Discount department, bicycle, wholesale club and toy stores sold these mini-bicycles in New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Minnesota and Massachusetts from October 2001 through November 2001 for about \$70. All Kent mini-bicycles have black plastic caps on the tops of the front-wheel fork. Kent mini-bicycles with black plastic caps covering the chrome portion of the tops and sides of the front-wheel fork are not included in this recall.

Problem: The front fork assembly on these mini-bicycles can loosen or break, and cause the rider to lose control and crash.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these Midget Racer mini-bicycles immediately and return them to the place of purchase for a refund or to receive a replacement mini-bicycle. For further information, call Kent International at (800) 451-5368 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02081.html>

Release Number: 02-084 Intermatic Inc., of Spring Grove, Ill., is voluntarily recalling about 156,000 electroluminescent nightlights. The recalled Electroluminescent Night Lights have model numbers GN172 and GN165, which are molded on the back of the lights. The model GN172 lights are gray in color and are about 1 1/2 inches square by 1/4 inch thick with two metal electrical prongs. The model GN165 lights are gray in color and are about 4-3/8 inches in height, 1-5/8 inches wide and 1/4 inch thick with two metal electrical prongs. Also molded on the back of the nightlights are the words, "Intermatic

Inc." and "Made in Taiwan." Hardware stores and electrical distributors nationwide, including True Value Hardware Stores, sold these nightlights between January 1999 and December 2001 for about \$4.

Problem: The nightlights can short-circuit, posing shock and burn hazards to consumers.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these lights immediately; if the nightlights are plugged in, turn off the power, and remove them from the wall socket. Consumers should return the nightlights to the store where they were purchased for a full refund or mail the lights to Intermatic Inc. at 7777 Winn Road, Spring Grove, IL 60081, Attn: Larry Kubisiak for a full refund or a replacement nightlight of equal value. Intermatic will also send consumers \$2 for shipping and handling. For more information, consumers can call Intermatic at (800) 391-4555 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. CT Monday through Friday.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02084.html>

Release Number: 02-089 Value City and Schottenstein stores, of Columbus, Ohio, are voluntarily recalling about 2,300 children's gel candle kits. The Gel Candles kit includes four bags of gel chips in bright colors, wicks, glitter, two glass holders, and two plastic candle-holders. The candleholders are in the shapes of a bumblebee and a dragonfly, or a tulip and a daisy. The gel is scented in fruit flavors. The kits have model numbers "3041" or "3042" written on the box. Other writing on the box includes, "Express Ways!™ Gel Candles." "Scent-sational Colored Gel!" and "AGES 8 AND OLDER." Value City and Schottenstein discount stores nationwide sold these gel candle kits from July 2001 through December 2001 for about \$4.

Problem: When burned, the gel candle can melt the plastic candleholders included with the kit, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these candles immediately and return them to the store where purchased for a refund. For more information, call Value City at (888) 870-9181 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or go to the firm's web site at www.valuecity.com.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02089.html>

Release Number: 02-083 The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reminds consumers to demonstrate care when purchasing and using space heaters. CPSC estimates that space heaters, including both fixed and portable heaters, are associated with about 21,800 residential fires every year. About 300 people die each year in fires started by these heaters.

Fuel-burning space heaters also can cause carbon monoxide poisoning and indoor air pollution, because of improper venting or incomplete combustion.

Consumers should be aware that older space heaters might not meet the newer safety standards. The CPSC has worked to upgrade the industry standards on electric, kerosene and unvented gas space heaters. An automatic cut-off device is now required, which turns off electric or kerosene heaters if they tip over. More guarding around the heating coils of electric heaters and the burner of kerosene heaters also is required to prevent fires. CPSC worked to upgrade the industry standard on unvented gas heaters, as well, to provide an oxygen depletion sensor to shut off the heater if the oxygen level drops too low.

Here are some CPSC safety tips for buying and using space heaters:

- Select a space heater with a guard around the flame area or heating element. Place the heater on a level, hard and nonflammable surface, not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes. Keep the heater at least three feet

from bedding, drapes, furniture, or other flammable materials.

- Choose a space heater that has been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. These heaters meet specific safety standards.
- Keep doors open to the rest of the house if you are using an unvented fuel-burning space heater. This helps prevent pollutant build-up and promotes proper combustion. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to provide sufficient combustion air to prevent CO production.
- Never leave a space heater on when you go to sleep. Never place a space heater close to any sleeping person.
- Turn the space heater off if you leave the area. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Have a smoke detector with fresh batteries on each level of the house and a carbon monoxide detector outside your sleeping area.
- Be aware that mobile homes require specially designed heating equipment. Only electric or vented fuel-fired heaters should be used.
- Have gas and kerosene space heaters inspected annually.

Consumers who would like more information can receive a free CPSC booklet, "What You Should Know about Space Heaters," by placing a request at www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/hard.html or by sending a postcard to: "Space Heater Booklet," U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02083.html>

If you would like to sign up for the Keep Your Kids Safe newsletter, please visit our webpage at <http://datcp.state.wi.us> or contact Michelle Reinen at (608) 224-4988 or michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us. Please be sure to provide your name, telephone number and e-mail address.

If you have any questions or want to file a complaint regarding an unsafe product, contact:
WI Bureau of Consumer Protection,
Regulation & Safety Section
1-800-422-7128 (toll free in Wisconsin)
or (608) 224-4988